

Members

Rep. Vanessa Summers, Chairperson
Rep. Denny Oxley
Rep. Robert Alderman
Rep. Cleo Duncan
Sen. Kent Adams
Sen. Marvin Riegsecker
Sen. Allie Craycraft
Sen. Connie Sipes
Hugh Beebe
Michael Carmin
Nan Daley
Herb Grulke
Susan Hansen
Dave Bromund



INDIANA COMMISSION ON AUTISM

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: September 9, 2002
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 156B
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Rep. Vanessa Summers, Chairperson; Rep. Cleo Duncan; Sen. Marvin Riegsecker; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Hugh Beebe; Michael Carmin; Herb Grulke; Susan Hansen

Members Absent: Rep. Denny Oxley; Rep. Robert Alderman; Sen. Kent Adams; Sen. Connie Sipes; Nan Daley; Dave Bromund

Rep. Summers called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and asked the members to introduce themselves.

Delays in Transition Time from Waiver Waiting List

Alison Becker, Director, Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services, Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), described FSSA's efforts to decrease the transition time from waiver waiting lists to waiver services and the many reasons for delays in transition time, including: (a) moving work from Area Agencies on Aging to Bureau of Developmental

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Disabilities Services offices, which resulted in increased workload for the Bureau offices, but is hoped to streamline the process; (b) refinancing activities including closure of 2 ICFMRs and downsizing of others; (c) implementation of a time limit of 30 days for a targeted applicant to decide whether to claim an open waiver slot after the slot is offered; (d) training of personnel on processing of applications, expediting the process; (e) hiring of a waiver specialist to process all paperwork; (f) changing the level of care process and revising of forms, including allowing a qualified mental health professional to sign in lieu of a physician signature; and (g) changing job functions of employees to facilitate processes.

In response to questions from Ms. Hansen, and Sen. Riegsecker, Ms. Becker stated that: (a) the form revisions allowing for the qualified mental health professional signature should be completed in approximately 30 days; and (b) there are currently 400 autism waiver slots and some people decline an autism waiver slot because they become eligible for the developmental disability waiver at the same time, or are receiving services with payment made through a line item payment method.

Support Services Waiver

Ms. Becker informed the members that the support services waiver was approved on April 1, 2002, for people with developmental disabilities. The waiver provides \$13,500 per year for individuals who are waiting for coverage under the autism waiver or the developmental disability waiver. Ms. Becker stated that there are currently 1700 people on the support services waiver and that the target for the next three years is a total of 7000 people on the waiver. She stated that the funding source for the waiver is the refinancing of adult day services, and that notices concerning the availability of the waiver will be sent out soon to increase public awareness of availability. Mr. Grulke complimented the Bureau's efforts in developing the support services waiver.

Autism Waiver Renewal

Ms. Becker stated that renewal of the autism waiver is due on January 1, 2003, and that the renewal application will be sent within 10 days of this meeting date. She explained that the services to be covered under the renewal will be the same as those covered under the developmental disability waiver, and additionally, applied behavior analysis services (ABA) will be covered. She noted that the renewal application contains broad language concerning ABA so that FSSA may make adjustments to the ABA coverage based on experience and current information. She stated that public comment has been incorporated into the plans for provision of ABA. In response to a question from Mr. Grulke, Ms. Becker stated that self directed personal assistance services are not in the waiver currently, and that the ABA age limit will be determined administratively to ensure that benefits are provided appropriately to the most people possible.

Indiana Resource Center for Autism

Cathy Pratt, Director, Indiana Resource Center for Autism, provided a copy of the Center's most recent annual report, and two handouts² reflecting highlights of the annual report and concerns based on telephone calls that she receives. In response to questions from Ms. Hansen, Ms. Pratt discussed: (a) autism mentors in school districts to provide support and

²Attachment 1

guidance for the education of children with autism spectrum disorders; (b) university training of student teachers specifically with regard to teaching children with autism; (c) pros and cons of certification of teachers who teach children with autism.

Commission Discussion

Ms. Hansen noted that students from Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School were present in the audience and are holding a fair to assist families in Indiana in applying for the support services waiver. Peter Gundy, a student representing the group, provided a handout³ and informed the members concerning the fair.

Rep. Summers requested that individuals with additional concerns for consideration by the Commission during this interim inform her of those concerns soon because there will probably be only one additional meeting during this interim. Kim Dodson, ARC of Indiana, congratulated Steve Cook, Alison Becker, and Amy Brown for their efforts. She stated that her organization plans to request additional funding during the next legislative session for phase 3 of the 317 plan, including increased waiver slots.

Rep. Summers set the next meeting for October 21, 2002, at 1:00 p.m.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:40 am.

³Attachment 2